AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~for configuring~~ of configuring a local LAPB device in accordance with a remote LAPB device, said method comprising:

providing a received frame from said remote LAPB device;

when said received frame indicates that said remote LAPB device comprises a data terminal equipment ~~(DTE)~~ device, configuring said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment ~~(DCE)~~ device; and

when said received frame indicates that said remote LAPB device comprises a data computing equipment device, configuring said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising monitoring to detect an initiator signal for an asynchronous balanced mode provided by said remote LAPB device and when no initiator signal for asynchronous balanced mode is detected for a given first time period, providing ~~said~~ an initiator signal for asynchronous balanced mode to said remote LAPB device.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitoring to detect said initiator for an asynchronous balanced mode from said remote LAPB device is performed during a given time limit.

4.   (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising providing said given time limit.

5.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for configuring a local LAPB device in accordance with a remote LAPB device, said apparatus comprising:

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a communication port for receiving a data signal originating from said remote LAPB device and for providing at least one part of said received data signal;

a memory for storing data identifying at least one of a data computing equipment device and a data terminal equipment device; and

a processing unit for receiving said at least one part of said received data signal, ~~checking~~ determining whether said at least one part of said received data signal is indicative of one of a data computing equipment device ~~(DCE)~~ and a data terminal equipment device ~~(DTE)~~ using said data stored in said memory and providing a configuration signal to said local LAPB device;

wherein said configuration signal will configure said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment device ~~(DCE)~~ in the case where the at least one part of the received data signal is indicative of a data terminal equipment device and further wherein said configuration signal will configure said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device in the case where the at least one part of the received data signal is indicative of a data computing equipment device.

6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication port provides an initiator signal for an asynchronous balanced mode to said remote LAPB device in the case where no data signal is provided by said remote LAPB device for a given period of time.

7.   (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said communication port is comprised in said local LAPB device.

8.   (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication port is comprised in said local LAPB device.

9.   (New) A method of configuring a first device coupled to a second device in a network of devices, the method comprising:

receiving a first signal from the second device;

evaluating the received first signal to determine if the second device is one of a first type or a second type of device;

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if the second device is of the first type, configuring the first device as the second type of device; and

if the second device is of the second type, configuring the first device as the first type of device.

10.   (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining whether the first signal is received from the second device prior to expiration of a first predetermined time period; and

if the first signal is not received prior to expiration of the first predetermined time period, sending a second signal to the second device.

11.   (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining whether a third signal is received from the second device in response to the second signal prior to expiration of a second predetermined time period; and

if the third signal is not received prior to expiration of the second predetermined time period, setting a status of the first device to indicate a failure to receive a signal from the second device.

12.   (New) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the first and second signals is an initiator signal for a first mode of operation.

13.   (New) The method of claim 9 wherein:

the first type of device is a data terminal equipment device; and

the second type of device is a data computing equipment device.

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